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Governor Sharpe Sets Conservation Week

WHEREAS the practice of soil and moisture conservation is of vital importance to all South Dakotans because of our direct dependence upon the natural resources of our state; and

WHEREAS erosion is a threat to the productive capacity of the nation and a drain on the country's agricultural resources; and

WHEREAS a knowledge of the basic facts about our soils is essential to the development of effective plans for agricultural preparedness in times of national emergency, for a permanent conservation of our natural resources; and

WHEREAS it is a paramount issue that we retain our soil so that future generations may have its use as well as we; and

WHEREAS wildlife deserves special consideration because of the economic role it assumes in the control of insect life and its value for pursuits of hunting:

NOW, THEREFORE, I, M Q SHARPE, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby designate the week of September 26 to October 2, 1943 as

SOUTH DAKOTA SOIL CONSERVATION WEEK

and urge the schools, civic groups, sportsmen's organizations, soil conservation districts, and other groups to observe the week with appropriate educational conservation programs.

/s/ M Q Sharpe, Governor

State Association Chairman Dwight Says:

From the soil has come everything we now possess. Man, in his folly, has abused his resources to a tremendous extent, losing his land throughout the world, by erosion of wind and water.

It is now being forcefully brought to our attention that this land is not ours, but only ours to use, during the lifetime in which we live. It is ours to pass on to future generations, unharmed. In the short span of about two generations, or since cultivation began in South Dakota, our lands have literally flowed down our rivers of the State.

How then, shall we correct these practices of waste and extensive erosion?

Our Government, through the Soil Conservation Districts, formed throughout the state, has provided technical aid for landowners, showing them correct methods of farming on the level and protecting their soil. These practices cost the farmer very little money; only good hard work and common sense in all our farming.

The greatest need at this time is education of our people, showing them the value of saving their lands and topsoil. Not only is it necessary to educate the farmer but the city and townsfolk as well. Educate us one and all in Soil Conservation and our children's children shall live and prosper on the land we leave.

This abbreviated issue of the Dakota Zephyr may be the last for the duration due to labor, paper, and other shortages.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

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Carl Keszler, cooperator with the Clearfield-Keyapaha Soil Conservation District, and Vice-Chairman of the Board of Supervisors, says that, "My boy, Vern, has the best looking field of corn in his community this summer on a 30-acre field that was in grain stubble last year and sub-surface tillage last fall. This spring the field was listed to corn, and at the last report it was still looking good."

Corn was planted on the contour with use of furrow openers by Earl J. Baumberger in Minnehaha county this spring. Quotes Mr. Baumberger: "I find that wind damage was nil. I think the furrow openers left enough ridge to keep the wind from whipping the corn. Furrow openers also hold moisture in the spring between the time of planting and time of cultivation. I think farming on the contour is the only way."

Mr. George G. Hofer, a cooperator of the Carpenter Soil Conservation District, reports that he had approximately 200 ewes lamb this spring. One hundred ewes had twin lambs and the rest singles. When the time came to turn the ewes and lambs on grass, Mr. Hofer states that he turned the ewes with twin lambs on a 40-acre field of crested wheatgrass pasture and the ewes with singles in a native grass pasture. Both the ewes and the lambs on the crested wheatgrass pasture showed greater growth and were in a better condition than the ones on the western wheatgrass pasture. At the same time the crested went to seed and a fair crop of crested wheatgrass has been collected from this pasture, which will be used to seed more land to crested wheatgrass this fall on his farm.

Dakotans' Opinions About Soil
Conservation Districts

An Editor says: "Few people, it seems to me, recognize the serious problem of soil erosion in this part of the country. The conservation service is bringing this problem before the people and doing much to halt further inroads on the value of the soil."

An Attorney says: "The program has increased yields of farm crops, tends to save tractor fuel and lessen repairs on farms. It has increased the income of owner and tenant which naturally is reflected in the community income and aids in the matter of increasing land values."

An Elevator Manager: "In my opinion the Tree Planting Program and Pasture Improvement Program of the Soil Conservation District is well worth the time and money spent. Tree planting beautifies farms, saves fuel and feed to the extent of several hundred dollars a year per farm. Contour furrows on pastures save moisture and soil"

Clothing Store Partners: "We feel satisfied that we have received material benefits from increased yields of corn and small grain up to as much as 10 bushels per acre over similar adjoining land which is not contoured. The gullies seeded to grass are gradually building up and after some of the heaviest rains there has been very little runoff water and practically no erosion of the soil."

CONSERVATION WEEK - Sept. 26 to Oct. 2nd.